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...TE FISHERIES DEPARTMENT
1308 SMITH TOWER
SEATTLE, -- WASHINGTON

February 21st, 1942

Mr. Harlan Cheyne
State Pollution Laboratory
Gig Harbor, Washington

Dear Sir:

By permission of the chairman of the Washington Pollution Commission and by mutual permission of the Technical Advisory Committee I would like to have you go to Bremerton Tuesday morning and contact Mr. Earl Gates for an investigation of the circumstances surrounding the operations of the Western Gas Company who have been arrested for violation of the pollution laws of the state of Washington.

It would be advisable to call Mr. Gates Monday night for an appointment Tuesday morning to avoid any failure to make proper connections.

Your first operations should include a sampling of the effluent which is being discharged into the Bay either in the immediate vicinity or through a sewerage system. In addition you should take samples of such effluent as Mr. Gates and yourself, from visual observations, believe might have gone in the Bay on previous periods, with the idea of making a complete chemical analysis to determine the concentrations of such substances which may be highly toxic to fish and shell fish life.

It would also be advantageous to take a camera and take pictures of the surrounding territory to the end that they can be shown in court to prove that surface drainage from the plant of known constituency actually entered the salt water area of the state of Washington.

Mr. Gates has in his possession a sample of the effluent which was running in the Bay at the time the arrest was made and this should be taken back to the Laboratory and one half of the sample analyzed and half retained for evidence. It is my belief that phenol compounds will probably be the most serious thing encountered.

To obtain evidence that damage has been done a careful examination of the plant effluent should be made, together with an analysis of the existing methods of separation and disposal. An examination, or census of the beach at low tide should be made to determine whether or not shell fish exist in the area on either side of the plant itself and immediately adjacent thereto. If no shell fish exist some questioning of local or old-time residents should be undertaken to determine if adequate witnesses can be obtained to the effect that clams did at one time exist in the area under investigation in any quantity.

I might suggest that if no clams do exist that some be dug and placed in the area with a control in the vicinity where clams are known to exist, since it is my belief, from visual observation, that there is a sufficient quantity of waste in that area that at the present time it will be impossible for clams to live in the area.

I think you should be prepared, as an expert witness, to go into court with the proper information to answer:

1. All questions regarding the past method of handling effluent.

2. The present methods of handling the effluent.

3. The amount of effluent that is entering the Bay.

4. The chemical constitutency of all of the above three materials.

5. The effect of any or all three effluents on the fish and shell fish in the area and the existing conditions surrounding the same.

6. Pictures to illustrate all of these points to the best of your ability.

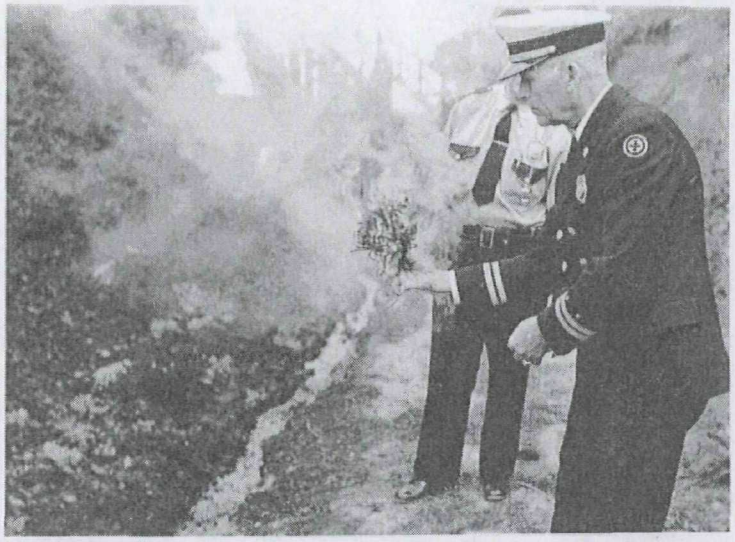
7. A suggestion as to how the effluent can be handled which must be approved by this department and all members of the Washington Pollution Commission.

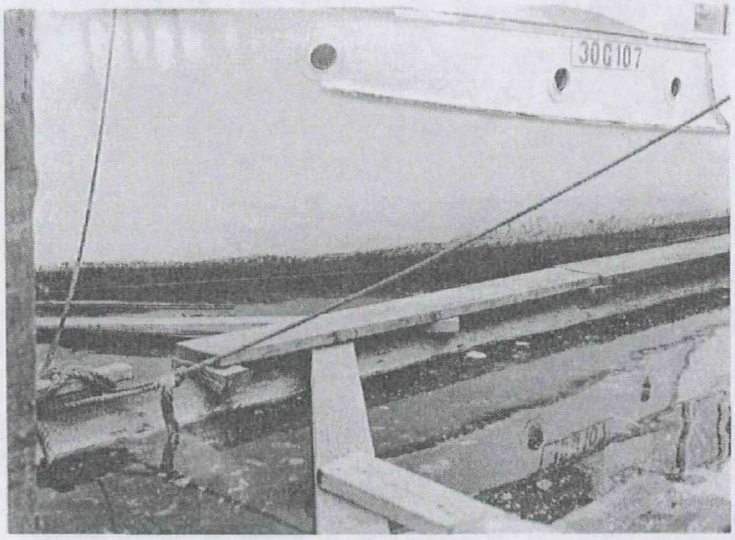
If after a preliminary perusal of the district you feel that there are complications involved you should advise me immediately as to what they are wish such suggestions as you may deem necessary.

Yours very truly,

Loyd A. Royal
Chief Biologist
Member Technical Advisory Committee
State Pollution Commission

cc: Mr. Stephen Morrissey.

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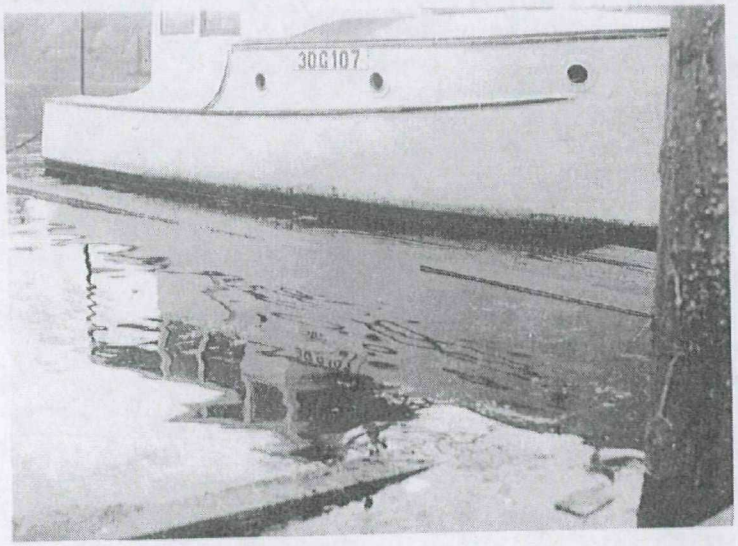
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